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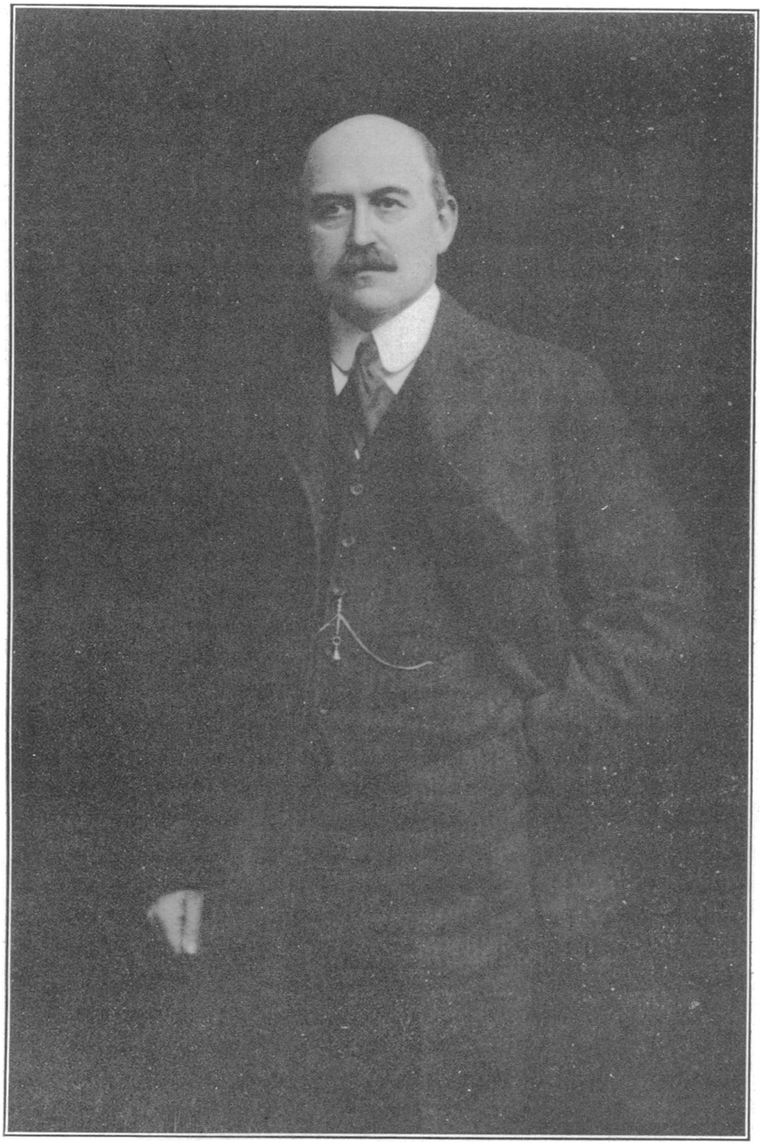

WILLIAM BULLOCK CLARK,

Professor of geology in the Johns Hopkins University, eminent for his contributions to geology, who died on July 27 at the age of fifty-seven years.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND THE WAR

As has been described in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, the National Research Council was organized under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences at the request of the President of the United States to promote scientific research and especially to cooperate with the government in the present emergency. It has now become a department of the National Defence Council, dealing with the organization of science and research as affected by the war.

As our government through its scientific departments devotes more attention to scientific work than any other nation, they would be the natural agencies to take charge of the applications of science to the national welfare in the present emergency. It may, however, be that better results can be secured by calling on the scientific men of the whole nation who are the best fitted for such service. This was indeed the plan of the government in making the National Academy of Sciences its scientific adviser.

Dr. George E. Hale, director of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, is chairman of the National Research Council, and gave his entire time to the work at Washington until his recent return to California; Dr. Robert A. Millikan, professor of physics in the University of Chicago, now represents the National Research Council, in general charge of the scientific questions referred to it. Other scientific men who are devoting their time to national service in Washington are: Dr. C. E. Mendenhall, professor of physics in the University of Wisconsin, who is in charge of the development of instruments used in connection with aeroplanes; Dr. Raymond Pearl, of the University of Maine, chairman of the agricultural committee; Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, of the University of Pennsylvania, chairman of the food committee; Dr. Marston T. Bogert, of Columbia University, chairman of the chemistry committee; Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, of the University of Michigan, chairman of the committee on medicine and hygiene; Professor Robert M. Yerkes, who has just accepted a call to the University of Minnesota, chairman of the psychology committee.

Among scientific men in Washington who are taking an active part in the work of the National Research Council are Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr. S. W. Stratton, director of the Bureau of Standards, and Dr. Van H. Manning, chief of the Bureau of Mines. Scientific men from England, France and Italy have been in Washington in consultation with the members of the National Research Council.

Members of the foreign service committee of the council, who have been in France and England for a period of two or three months, have returned to the United States and have brought with them much valuable information relative to the organization and development of scientific activities in connection with the war. A few members of the committee have remained in France to continue their observations and investigations, under special detail. Formal reports have been submitted to the council, through its executive and military committees, relating to the observations and experiences of the members of this committee, in connection with which recommendations for cooperative investigations in this country are made.

The government has so far made little or no provision to pay the cost of this scientific work, most men of

A Tree Fern (*Cibotium menziesii*) near the volcano Kilauea on the Island of Hawaii. The tree ferns are conspicuous elements in the Hawaiian landscape in the wet areas.

science having given their services without salary. The work of the council has been supported by private gifts, including an appropriation of $50,000 from the Carnegie Corporation. Some scientific men have, however, enlisted as officers in the army, and the passage of the food bill and other measures will doubtless permit the government to support and control the scientific work being done on its behalf.

EXPLORATIONS IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Professor A. S. Hitchcock, systematic agrostologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has spent about